

## Message Text

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21

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /106 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:DAO'DONOHUE:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE

IO/UNP - MR KRIEBEL

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R 212314Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199809

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, AU, KS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION IN U.N.

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR MCKEOWN CALLED ON KOREAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR OH AUGUST 21 TO CONVEY CURRENT AUSTRALIAN THINKING ON KOREAN QUESTION AT THE UN.

2. ACCORDING MCKEOWN, GOA IS STILL ASSESSING PROSPECTS FOR AVOIDING CONFRONTATION ON KOREAN QUESTION IN NEW YORK. MCKEOWN SAID GOA CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME BASIS FOR CONSENSUS IN FINDING SOME MUTUALLY ACCEPT-ABLE ELEMENTS FROM TWO CONTENDING RESOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, GOA ADMITS IT DOES NOT HAVE ANY IDEA ON HOW SUCH A CONSENSUS MIGHT BE ARRIVED AT AND RECOGNIZES THAT PROSPECT IS FOR CONFRONTATION ON THE KOREAN QUESTION DURING UNGA.

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3. WITH REGARD TO THE OTHER SIDE'S RESOLUTION, MCKEOWN

SAID THAT GOA DOES NOT ACCEPT THAT DPRK IS ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN KOREA OR THAT IT CAN DETERMINE BILATERAL US-ROK RELATIONSHIPS. FURTHER GOA WOULD HAVE TO KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT WHAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE TO REPLACE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BEFORE AGREEING WITH ANY ACTIONS TO END IT AS PROPOSED BY NORTH KOREANS.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS MCKEOWN SAID GOA HAS DECIDED NOT TO COSPONSOR EITHER RESOLUTION AND TO DEFER FOR THE PRESENT DECISION ON HOW IT WILL VOTE.

5. MCKEOWN SAID KOREAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA HAS BEEN INFORMED OF ABOVE AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN SEOUL HAS ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM ROKG.

6. IN REPLY, KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT IT REMAINS OUR VIEW THAT THE BEST WAY TO INDUCE OTHER SIDE TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION. FURTHER NOTED IT QUITE CLEAR THAT OBJECTIVE OF PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION IS NOT SIMPLY REMOVAL OF UN FLAGS SINCE WE ARE WILLING TO DO THAT ALREADY IF OTHER SIDE AGREES TO MAINTENANCE OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. RATHER, RESOLUTION IS DIRECTED AGAINST U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE, DESPITE FACT THAT U.S. FORCES ARE NOT UNDER U.N. FLAG, AS WELL AS TO INFLICT SERIOUS DIPLOMATIC DEFEAT ON THE ROKG AS PART OF NORTH KOREA'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO ISOLATE SOUTH KOREA INTERNATIONALLY.

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